

Message Text

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PM:SGEIS
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R 182208Z MAY 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY THE HAGUE
INFO USMISSION USNATO
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CINCUSNAVEUR

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 127226

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MASS, MPOL, NL

SUBJECT: DUTCH ACQUISITION OF LOCKHEED ORION

REF: THE HAGUE 2343

1. EMBASSY MAY DRAW ON POINTS MADE IN LETTER SECRETARY BROWN DELIVERED TO MOD SCHOLTEN AT DPC MEETING (PARA 2) IN DISCUSSING LOCKHEED WITH GON OFFICIALS. WITH PRESS EMBASSY MAY CONFIRM THAT LOA HAS BEEN EXTENDED UNTIL AUGUST. IF MFA HAS NO OBJECTION, YOU MAY CONFIRM THAT WE HAVE OFFERED TO SEND A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF A GENERAL RECIPROCAL PROCUREMENT AGREEMENT.
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TEAM MAY ARRIVE IN THE HAGUE AS EARLY AS WEEK 28 MAY.

2. BEGIN TEXT:

HONORABLE WILLEM SCHOLTEN
MINISTER OF DEFENSE
THE HAGUE

THE NETHERLANDS

DEAR COLLEAGUE,

THANK YOU FOR YOUR LETTER OF 26 APRIL 1978. I TOO LOOK

FORWARD TO SEEING YOU AT THE FORTHCOMING MEETING OF THE
DPC.

WHILE I REGRET THAT WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO MEET PRIOR TO
THAT TIME, I APPRECIATE YOUR HAVING SENT DR. VAN EEKELEN TO
WASHINGTON IN APRIL. AMONG THE MATTERS DISCUSSED DURING
HIS VISIT WAS THE IMPORTANCE WHICH THE US ATTACHES TO THE
POTENTIAL NETHERLANDS PROCUREMENT OF P-3C AIRCRAFT. THE

PROVEN CAPABILITY OF THIS AIRCRAFT IN THE PERFORMANCE OF
MARITIME PATROL MISSIONS FOR NATO AND ITS EARLY AVAILA-
OILITY FROM CURRENT PRODUCTION MAKE IT A SUPERIOR WEAPONS
SYSTEM TO MEET THE PRESENT REQUIREMENTS OF THE ROYAL
NETHERLANDS NAVY. THIS WOULD CLEARLY PROVIDE FOR AN EN-
HANCED NATO ASW CAPABILITY IN THE EARLY 1980'S AND WOULD
ASSIST IN OUR NATO STANDARDIZATION GOALS. WE HOPE THAT THE
EFFORTS OF THE LOCKHEED COPORATION TO PROVIDE COMPENSATING
PROCUREMENT TO A WIDE DISTRIBUTION OF NETHERLANDS INDUSTRY
WILL HELP IN ENABLING YOU TO REACH AN EARLY DECISION ON
THIS IMPORTANT PROCUREMENT.
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IN SUPPORT OF THIS EFFORT, WE ADVISED MR. VAN EEKELEN DURING
HIS VISIT THAT WE WERE WILLING TO NEGOTIATE WITH YOUR
MINISTRY A GENERAL RECIPROCAL PROCUREMENT AGREEMENT WHICH
WOULD FACILITATE THE MUTUAL FLOW OF DEFENSE EQUIPMENT PRO-
CUREMENT BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES. I AM PREPARED TO SEND
A TEAM OF EXPERTS TO DISCUSS THE DETAILS OF SUCH AN ARRANGE-
MENT AT ANY TIME IF YOU SO DESIRE. I HOPE THAT THE CON-
CLUSION OF SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD NOT ONLY ASSIST YOUR
GOVERNMENT IN DECIDING TO ACQUIRE THIS AIRCRAFT, BUT WOULD
ALSO PROMOTE GREATER DEFENSE COOPERATION ON FUTURE NATO
EQUIPMENT NEEDS. SINCERELY. END TEXT. VANCE

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